

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A blade assembly for a laryngoscope including a handle, said blade assembly comprising:

base for coupling to the handle;

an elongated blade secured to the base, said elongated blade having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said lower surface of said elongated blade being secured to said base at said proximal end;

a first guide tube ~~secured~~ affixed to ~~said upper surface of~~ said elongated blade and having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second guide tube ~~secured~~ affixed to ~~said upper surface of~~ said elongated blade adjacent said first guide tube and having a proximal end and a distal end,

said first and second guide tubes being constructed and arranged to direct tubes extended therethrough into the oral cavity of a patient.

2. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said first guide tube is substantially straight along its entire length and said second guide tube ~~is curved~~ has a curved portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim 2, wherein said elongated blade is curved, the curved portion of the second guide tube is curved in general conformity to the curvature of the elongated blade, and the first guide tube is not curved in general conformity to the curvature of the blade because said first guide tube is substantially straight along its entire length.

4. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a light attached to said elongated blade.

5. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a tongue deflector having a portion extending in a direction transverse to the upper surface of the elongated blade along a marginal edge segment of said elongated blade.

6. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said first and second guide tubes are oriented at different angles of attack with respect to said elongated blade so that when said elongated blade is placed atop the tongue of a patient to effect laryngeal suspension, said first and second guide tubes direct respective tubes extended therethrough into different regions of the patient's oral cavity.

7-20. Cancelled.

21. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the first guide tube and the proximal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at the proximal end of the elongated blade.

22. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 21, wherein the distal end of the first guide tube and the distal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at about the midpoint of the elongated blade.

23. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of the distal end of the first guide tube is disposed above the center of the distal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

24. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 23, wherein the center of the proximal end of the first guide tube is disposed below the center of the proximal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

25. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first aspiration tube inserted into the first guide tube and a second aspiration tube inserted into the second guide tube.

26. (Currently Amended) An assembly, comprising:

a base;

an elongated blade secured to the base, said elongated blade having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said lower surface of said elongated blade being secured to said base at said proximal end;

a first guide means for guiding a first aspiration tube to a patient's laryngeal gutter, said first guide means being ~~secured~~ affixed to ~~said upper surface of said~~ elongated blade; and

a second guide means for guiding a second aspiration tube to a patient's glottic aperture, said second guide means being ~~secured~~ affixed to ~~said upper surface of said~~ elongated blade.

27. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said first guide means comprises a first guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end and said second guide means comprises a second guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end.

28. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 27, wherein said first guide tube is substantially straight and said second guide tube ~~is curved~~ has a curved portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 28, wherein said elongated blade is curved and said curved portion of the second guide tube follows the curve of the elongated blade.

30. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the proximal end of the first guide tube and the proximal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at the proximal end of the elongated blade.

31. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 30, wherein the distal end of the first guide tube and the distal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at about the midpoint of the elongated blade.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the center of the distal end of the first guide tube is disposed above the center of the distal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade, and wherein the center of the proximal end of the first guide tube is disposed below the center of the proximal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

33. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, further comprising a first aspiration tube inserted into the first guide tube and a second aspiration tube inserted into the second guide tube.

34. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein said first and second guide tubes are oriented at different angles of attack with respect to said elongated blade.

35. (Currently Amended) A blade assembly, comprising:  
base for coupling the blade assembly to a handle of a laryngoscope;  
a blade secured to the base, said blade having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said lower surface of said blade being secured to said base at said proximal end;  
a first guide tube secured to said upper surface of said blade and having a proximal end and a distal end; and  
a second guide tube secured to said upper surface of said blade and having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein  
said first guide tube being constructed and arranged to direct a first tube extended therethrough into an oral cavity of a patient,

said second guide tube being constructed and arranged to direct a second tube extended therethrough into the oral cavity of a patient, and

said first guide tube is not disposed within the second guide tube and the second guide tube is not disposed within the first guide tube.

36. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim 35, wherein said first guide tube is substantially straight and ~~said second guide tube is curved.~~

37. (Currently Amended) The blade assembly of claim 36, wherein said blade is elongate and curved and the second guide tube has a curved portion and the curvature of the curved portion of the second guide tube generally conforms to the curvature of the elongate blade.

38. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 37, further comprising a light attached to said elongated blade.

39. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 35, further comprising a tongue deflector having a portion extending in a direction transverse to the upper surface of the blade along a marginal edge segment of said blade.

40. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 35, wherein said first and second guide tubes are oriented at different angles of attack with respect to said blade so that when said blade is placed atop the tongue of a patient to effect laryngeal suspension, said first and second guide tubes direct respective tubes extended therethrough into different regions of the patient's oral cavity.

41. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 35, wherein the proximal end of the first guide tube and the proximal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at the proximal end of the blade.

42. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 41, wherein the distal end of the first guide tube and the distal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at about the midpoint of the blade.

43. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 35, wherein the center of the distal end of the first guide tube is disposed above the center of the distal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the blade.

44. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 43, wherein the center of the proximal end of the first guide tube is disposed below the center of the proximal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the blade.

45. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 35, further comprising a first aspiration tube inserted into the first guide tube and a second aspiration tube inserted into the second guide tube.

46. (New) A blade assembly, comprising:

an elongate, generally rounded handle having a bottom surface, a top surface and a side surface;

a base with a first major surface and a second major surface parallel with the first major surface, wherein the second major surface of the base is attached to and contacts at least a portion of the top surface of the handle;

a blade having a distal end, a proximal end and a generally curved intermediate section extending between the distal end and the proximal end, the generally curved intermediate section having a first major surface and a second major surface opposite the first major surface, and the proximal having a first major surface and a second major surface that is opposite to and generally parallel with the first major surface, wherein the second major surface of the proximal end is attached to and contacts at least a portion of the first major surface of the base;

a first guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the first guide tube is attached to and contacts at least a portion of the first major surface of the proximal

end of the blade and/or the first major surface of the intermediate section of the blade and extends from a point adjacent the proximal end the blade to a point that is about midway between the proximal end of the blade and the distal end of the blade;

a second guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the second guide tube is attached to and contacts at least a portion of the first major surface of the proximal end of the blade and/or the first major surface of the intermediate section of the blade and extends from a point adjacent the proximal end the blade to a point that is about midway between the proximal end of the blade and the distal end of the blade;

a third tube extended through the first guide tube; and

a fourth tube extended through the second guide tube, wherein

the first guide tube is not disposed within the second guide tube and the second guide tube is not disposed within the first guide tube.

47. (New) The blade assembly of claim 46, wherein the first guide tube is substantially straight and the second guide tube has a curved portion that is curved in general conformity to the curvature of the intermediate section of the blade.

48. (New) The blade assembly of claim 46, further comprising a light attached to the blade.

49. (New) The blade assembly of claim 46, further comprising a tongue deflector having a portion extending in a direction transverse to a top side of the flat blade along a marginal edge segment of the blade.